

Americans and put some teeth and some backbone into real solutions.

Along with several colleagues, I introduced H.R. 2412, the Tribal Energy Self-Sufficiency Act, which contains not only the Hayworth amendment offered here this evening, but a full and comprehensive program to address the energy needs in Indian country. My bill includes financing options, tax incentives and provisions designed to encourage development of renewable and nonrenewable resources on Indian lands to benefit Indians and non-Indians alike.

Native Americans have by far the highest percentage of homes without electricity. Many homes on the Indian reservations have either no electricity or unreliable electricity. In numerous instances, Indian lands are crisscrossed with electricity transmission and distribution lines, yet the Indian homes on those lands remain dark. Unlike local non-Indian governments, Indian tribal governments often have no access to these lines and little authority over what energy they do receive.

As the ranking Democratic member of the Committee on Resources, I offered substitute language to the energy bill during markup which included the language in the amendment that we are debating, as well as several other proposals to assist Indian tribes in attracting business development and access to electricity. Unfortunately, that language was defeated by almost a straight party-line vote. Again, I worked to ensure that language designed to break down barriers to energy development by the Indians be included in the Markey-Stenholm amendment which we hoped to bring here to the floor, but the Committee on Rules would not allow it.

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The Republican leadership of this House has determined that the plight and energy needs of Native Americans are not in order to be addressed.

Mr. Chairman, I do support the gentleman's amendment and encourage my colleagues to do the same. But shame on us, shame on us, shame on us. This paltry amendment is all that we have to address the very real energy needs of American Indians.

But not to worry, not to worry, since many Indian homes do not have electricity here in 2001, they are probably not watching this travesty on C-Span this evening, unfortunately.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, I guess I would say that the wonder of being in the minority is to be on all sides of every issue; to call something a travesty and say you support it is curious, indeed.

But we welcome the support; and as my friend, the gentleman from West Virginia, heard in the committee hearing, we will continue to work to solve the needs of Native Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

The Buy Indian Act amendment will encourage the development of energy and energy by-products in Indian country. This will provide new economic opportunities for new development on Indian lands, development that does not involve gaming.

The amendment would operate to add competitively priced energy products to the list of goods and services covered under the original Buy Indian Act.

The Buy Indian Act amendment does not discriminate against any type of energy, and encourages all types of production. If the tribe wants to produce hydropower, they can take advantage of the amendment. If the tribe is able to mine coal, they can take advantage of the amendment. If a tribe is able to produce oil or gas, they can take advantage of the amendment. If a tribe can produce wind power, they can take advantage of the amendment.

The amendment will encourage partnerships between the American Indian and Alaska native tribes and the private sector. The resources that Indian country can bring to the table, including a dedicated labor force, energy resources such as coal, oil, and gas combined with the expertise of the business community, is a win-win situation for tribes, the business community, and the Nation.

It is important that Congress does what it can to encourage economic development in Indian country. Although this amendment is a small step, it is a step in the right direction to promote economic opportunities and self-sufficiency for the American Indian and Alaska native tribes.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in the coming weeks to further consult with tribes and explore additional measures we can take to achieve economic development and self-sufficiency in Indian country through energy development and production.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) that would assist the American Indian community by making energy products and energy by-products eligible under the Buy Indian Act.

Although I agree with this amendment, I believe it does fall short, much like the rest of this bill, in addressing the real problems of American Indian tribes.

As my colleague, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), mentioned

earlier, Members of this House introduced H.R. 2412, the Tribal Energy Self-Sufficiency Act, and I cosponsored that bill because I believe it incorporates real solutions for Indian country's energy needs.

But I was sorely disappointed that when parts of this bill were offered as the Democratic substitute in the Committee on Resources, it failed on a nearly party line vote. A week ago, it was wrong not to incorporate solutions for tribes into this bill; and today, aside from this amendment, we are doing the same thing.

In fact, American Indians, as we know, face a myriad of energy-related problems. Problem areas include inability for tribes to get financing for new generation projects, difficulties with interconnections, and the list goes on.

While visiting with representatives from Indian country, I have listened to them closely. They have explained to me their view of the history of America's energy industry. Basically, they have been shortchanged.

Again, I support the amendment of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH), but like the rest of the good provisions of this bill, it is only a fraction of the positive actions we can and should be taking to make energy resources mutually beneficial for American Indians and this country.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the support of the gentleman from New Jersey for this bipartisan amendment. If we listen closely, the problem with the minority is a problem essentially of process.

As I mentioned before, as is part of the RECORD in terms of the Committee markup, we made clear as part of the majority we stand ready to work for comprehensive solutions throughout the width and breadth of native America, to work for these tribes.

There are tremendous opportunities. Let me agree with my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey. In terms of hearing from representatives of sovereign Indian tribes and nations, their determination to become involved in energy exploration, in energy resources, we should inspire that.

This is an important first step, but make no mistake, Mr. Chairman, much more work remains to be done. So in the spirit of bipartisanship, I appreciate the voicing of support for this amendment; and I think this can be a good night for the House and an important step for Indian country to have this amendment adopted.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I say, in conclusion, this is not the first provision of our Democratic alternative in the Committee on Resources that we have seen reoffered now in a different form.